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PORT BLAIR RENAMED SRI VIJAYA PURAM

Port Blair, the capital city of the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, has been renamed Sri Vijaya Puram, Union Home Minister Amit Shah announced on Friday. While the earlier name had a colonial legacy, Sri Vijaya Puram symbolises the victory achieved in India's freedom struggle and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands' unique role in it, he said | P9

Inspector suspended in Nagamangala

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

HOME Minister G Parameshwara said on Friday that Nagamangala police inspector Ashok Kumar has been suspended for changing the Ganesha procession route in the town on Wednesday night.

The town witnessed a communal clash after miscreants threw stones at the procession. So far, 55 people have been arrested.

He told reporters here that the route map given earlier to the organisers of the procession was changed by the inspector. "It is his responsibility. We had told police officials across the state that if any untoward incident takes place in their respective jurisdictions, they will be held responsible," Dr Parameshwara said. P4

EXPRESS READ

Milk price likely to be increased again

Bengaluru: Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Friday hinted at hiking the prices of Nandini milk again. "The cooperative department has requested us to increase the price by Rs 5." | P4

Ford to restart ops at Chennai plant

New Delhi: Ford, which exited the Indian market in 2022, on Friday said it is preparing to utilise its Chennai manufacturing plant for exports and has intimated the same to the TN government | P13

Apex court ticks off CBI saying it must dispel notion of being a 'caged parrot'

SC RAPS CBI, GRANTS BAIL TO KEJRIWAL

SUCHITRA KALYAN MOHANTY
@ New Delhi

HOURS after the Supreme Court granted him bail in the excise policy case filed by the CBI, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal walked out of Tihar jail, and said, "the thick walls of prison cannot break me." While granting him bail, justices Surya Kant and Ujjal Bhuyan differed on the legality of his arrest. Justice Kant held that there was no impediment in arresting a person already in the custody. However, Justice Bhuyan castigated the CBI, saying it should not be seen as a 'caged parrot'.

Justice Kant said although the procedure for the Kejriwal's arrest meets the requisite criteria for legality and compliance, his continued incarceration would infringe upon established legal principles and his right to liberty. Rejecting the CBI's contention of influencing the outcome of the trial, he said all evidence and material relevant to the agency's disposition is already in their possession, negating the likelihood of tampering by the CM.

Setting aside the Delhi HC's August 5 verdict, the SC said, "The appellant shall not make any public comments on the merits of the CBI case, it being sub judice... This condition is necessitated to dissuade a recent tendency of building a self-serving narrative on public platforms."

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal addresses supporters outside Tihar Jail after getting bail | PARVEEN NEGI

Slamming the CBI for its belated arrest, Justice Bhuyan said, "Like Caesar's wife, an investigating agency must be above board. Not long ago, this court has castigated the CBI comparing it to a caged parrot. It is imperative that CBI dispels the notion of it being a caged parrot. Rather, the perception should be that of an uncaged parrot."

Emphasising that personal liberty is sacrosanct, Justice Bhyuan said, "I am of the unhesitant view that the belated arrest of the appellant by the CBI is unjustified and the continued incarceration of the appellant in the CBI case that followed such arrest has become untenable."

Sebi sees no NSE co-location scam

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Mumbai

IN a dramatic volte-face, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) on Friday threw out its own case against the NSE and its past management led by then CEO Chitra Ramakrishna and vice-chairman Ravi Narain in the co-location case, citing lack of evidence.

This paves the way for India's largest bourse to resume its public listing plan, which has been stalled since 2016 due to the co-location controversy.

The case relates to the alleged preferential access given to certain broking firms, including OPG Securities, at the NSE to connect across the co-location facilities.

According to Sebi, there may have been lapses at the NSE's colocation facility but not enough evidence to establish collusion between the NSE and OPG Securities. "It is held that due to the absence of sufficient material/evidence/objective facts on record in this case, the test of 'preponderance of probability' fails to produce enough justification for the establishment of collusion/connivance between OPG and its directors with Noticees," Kamlesh Varshney, whole-time member, Sebi said in an 83-page order.

Varshney added: "There is no dispute that the NSE did not have a defined policy for the use of colo (co-location) facility. It even failed to monitor the use of the secondary server by TMs (brokers) without having sufficient reason."

Apart from Ramkrishna and Narain, Sebi has also dropped charges against Anand Subramanian, Ravindra Apte, Umesh Jain, Mahesh Soparkar, and Deviprasad Singh.

PREFERENTIAL ACCESS

The co-location case pertains to the alleged preferential access given to some broking firms in the form of 'dark fibre' at the NSE to connect across the co-location facilities faster than others, giving the former unfair advantage

CHITRA RAMAKRISHNA

Chitra Ramkrishna was ousted from NSE in 2016 for her role in the co-location case. In 2022, Sebi charged her with using a 'Himalayan yogi' to advise her on important decisions

Earlier this year, Sebi had rejected a settlement plea by the NSE in the co-location case.

The co-location scam refers to some brokers gaining an unfair advantage by accessing the NSE's systems, data, and trading facilities by allowing them to place their servers right in the NSE premises. The case came out in 2015 after three whistleblowers alerted Sebi.

In 2019, Sebi passed an order directing the NSE to disgorge ₹625 crore plus interest, and also imposed a penalty of ₹1,000 crore on the exchange for not ensuring equitable access to the facility to all trading members. The Sebi order was later set aside by the Securities Appellate Tribunal, following which the regulator moved the Supreme Court.

In 2023, the SC directed Sebi to refund ₹300 crore to NSE from ₹1,107 crore the exchange had deposited with it.

EXPRESS INTAKE

Dr G conducts marathon meet to dig up past 'scams' | P4

Hemant Nimbalkar posted as ADGP, Intelligence | P4

Raghavulu, Baby top contenders to succeed Yechury | P5

Telangana flood loss at Rs 10,300 cr, says Revanth | P5

3-day JPC meet from Sept 18 to take inputs on Waqf Bill | P9

IAF officer gets interim bail in sexual assault case | P10

Doctors seek Murmu's intervention

SULAGNA SENGUPTA @ Kolkata

WITH the stalemate between the protesting junior doctors and the Bengal government continuing for the third consecutive day, the agitators on Friday wrote to President Droupadi Murmu, urging her intervention to render justice to the rape-murder of a trainee doctor at the RG Kar hospital here on August 9.

In their letter, they mentioned the security lapses inside the hospital and how they feel insecure in the premises. They sought an appointment with her to discuss the matter.

The junior doctors reiterated the need to speak to CM Mamata Banerjee to end the deadlock, but refused to yield on the demand for live streaming of the talks for transparency.

Meanwhile, a Sealdah court rejected the CBI's request to subject the lone accused the rape-murder case, Sanjay Roy, to narco analysis test as he refused to give his consent. The agency wanted to use the narco test to verify Roy's statements. "The test would have helped determine if Roy is telling the truth," an officer said.

Roy had initially agreed to take the test but later changed his mind, CBI sources claimed. The Sealdah court judge spoke to Roy to find out whether he had any objection to what is also called a truth serum test.

In a related development, the ED received documents related to a medical scam from the sister-in-law of Dr Sandip Ghosh, former principal of RG Kar.

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